THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK—to the Secretary of the Interior, for the year 1880.—Washington, 1881.

The chief feature of interest found in this report is a description of what is termed the Hoodoo Region, which is a terribly broken and eroded portion of the head branches of the East Fork of the Yellowstone and the Passamaria or Stinking Water Fork of the Big Horn, and which until this occasion had never been visited by tourists or government explorers; all previous information having been derived from a small party of prospecting miners, two of whom were killed by the Indians.

Mr. P. W. Norris, the Superintendent of the Park, having arrived on the ground with his party, some made sketches of the many weird wonders of erosion, copies of which may be found on another page of this issue, and Mr. Norris with an attendant took the elevations of the adjacent peaks, including Hoodoo Mountain. The latter was found to be 10,700 feet high (anneroid-barometer measurement).

This mountain is about a mile in length, and must present a most extraordinary appearance, and while probably itself not a crater, it is evidently of volcanic origin, and was eroded in its present form. Its southern face is still changing, here extending from 500 to 1500 feet below the summit; the frosts and storms of untold ages in an Alpine climate have worn about a dozen labyrinths of countless deep, narrow, tortuous channels amid the long, slender, tottering pillars, shafts and spires of conglomerate breccia and other remaining volcanic rocks. In shape they are described as being unlike any elsewhere known, being a cross between the usual spire and steeple form, and the slender-based, and flat, tottering, table-topped sandstone monuments, near the Garden of the Gods, in Colorado. And while lacking the symmetry and beauty of these, surpass both in wild weird fascination. Here the sharp-cornered fragments of rocks of nearly every size, form and formation, and shade of coloring, by a peculiar volcanic cement attached sideways, endwise, and upon the tops, sides, and apparently unsupported upon each other, represent every form, garb and posture of gigantic human beings, as well as of birds, beasts and reptiles. In fact nearly every form, animate or inanimate, real or chimerical ever actually seen or conjured by the imagination may here be observed. With this description and the illustrations we have given on page 187, some idea may be formed of the wild unearthly appearance of these eroded Hoodoos of the Goblin Land. These monuments are from 50 to 300 feet in height, with narrow tortuous passages between them, with sometimes tunnels, where the Big Horn sheep hide in safety; while the ceaseless but ever changing moans of the wild winds seem to chant fitting requiems to these gnome-like monuments of the legendary Indian Gods.

We have not sufficient space to allow us even to briefly follow Superintendent Norris in his very interesting description of the many wonders of this extraordinary region—the Yellowstone Lake, Geysers, cold, hot and medicinal springs, pulsating Geysers, terrace building springs, fossil forests, natural bridges, gold and silver mines, and many objects of scientific interest. Among the animals still to be found in the Yellowstone Park, mention is made of the bison, or mountain buffalo, which differs considerably from the bison of the plains; also the moose, elk, white tailed deer, black tailed deer, antelope, big horn sheep, bears, mountain lion or cougar, wolves, foxes, skunks, badgers, rock dog, porcupine, rabbits, rats, mice, moles, squirrels, chipmunks, beavers, otters, etc., etc.

We note the presence in trout, found in the cold water tributaries, of a "worm" named by Dr. Leidy "*Dibothrium cordiceps*." They are described "as long, slender, white worms, found in the intestines and flesh of the countless large and beautiful trout of the Yellowstone Lake, named by Professor Cope, *Salmo pleuriticus*." They are said to be entirely different to the worms found in European trout. The Superintendent does not appear to have succeeded in tracing the cause of this parasite, but states that they are only met with in fish found in the Yellowstone Lake. Here the trout exist in great numbers in water bubbling with hot gases; and the angler, without changing his position, or removing the fish from the hook, can rapidly boil them in seething pools.

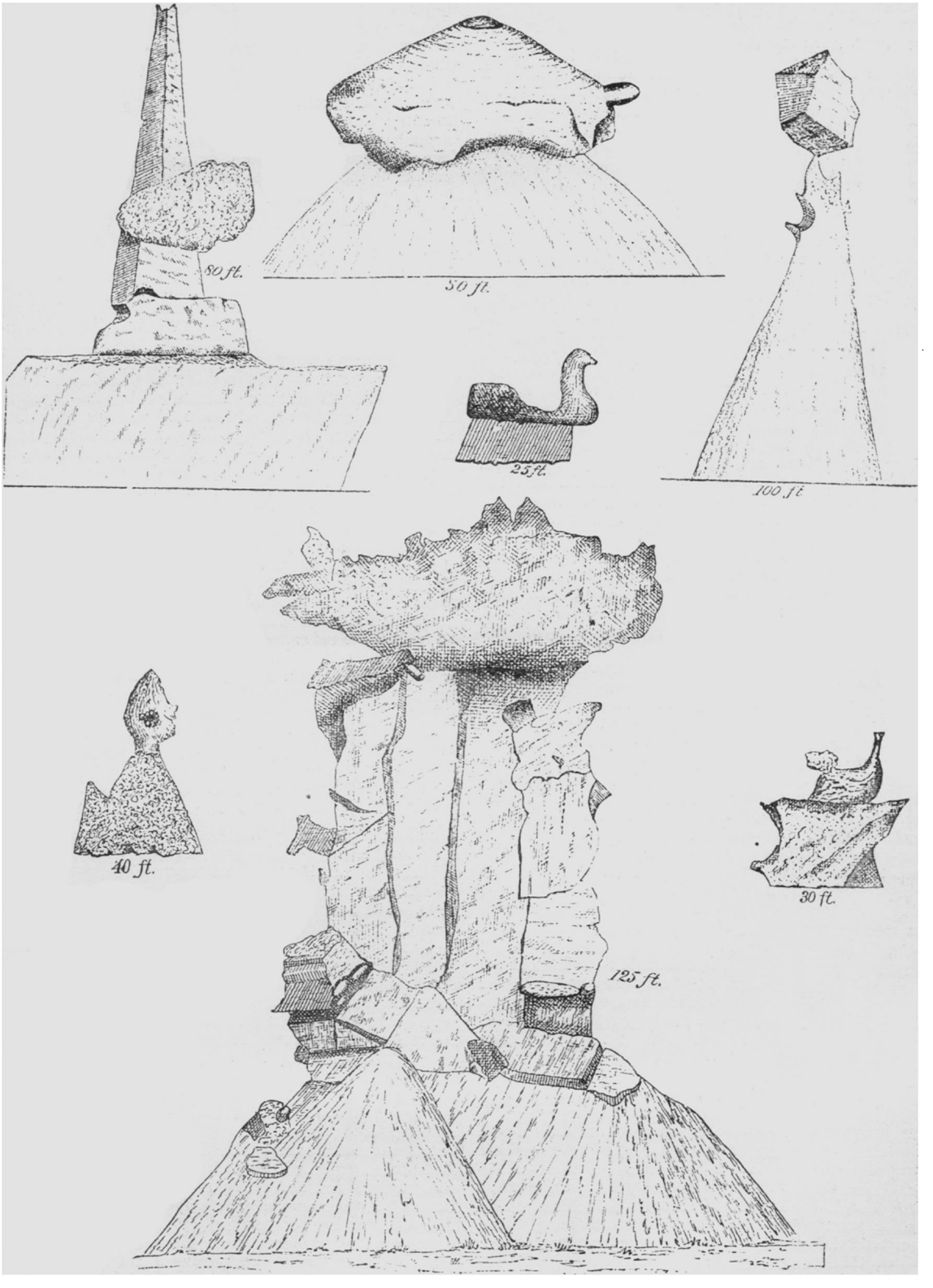
This National Park of the United States was visited by over 2000 tourists during the season previous to this report, all of whom returned in safety, although much inconvenience was experienced from the condition of the roads. An appropriation is now annually made for the improvement of the Park; and no one reading this report can fail to come to the conclusion that Mr. P. W. Norris is a gentleman highly qualified for the position of Superintendent, and brings an enthusiastic devotion to bear on his arduous duties in developing this "peerless wonder-land of earth."

Statement showing the *mean temperature* at BOSTON, MASS., for *each month* and *year* from *January*, 1871, to *December*, 1880, inclusive, as recorded at the *station of observation* of the *Signal Service, U. S. Army*, at that place.

[Compiled from the records on file at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.]

YEAR.	MEAN TEMPERATURE.												
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
1871	27.2	29.4	42.8	46.7	57.4	66.2	71.0	71.8	59.7	54.2	39.8	38.4	49.5
1872	27.5	28.5	26.4	46.3	57.2	67.6	74.4	71.8	63.8	52.1	40.7	24.1	48.4
1873	26.3	27.6	34.1	44.6	56.9	67.2	72.9	68.8	61.7	53.0	33.4	32.9	48.3
1874	31.2	27.9	35.1	39.1	56.1	65.8	72.2	67.7	63.8	53.4	41.5	31.9	48.8
1875	20.9	22.8	31.7	42.2	57.3	66.5	71.7	69.7	58.8	49.3	34.4	29.8	46.3
1876	30.5	27.5	32.9	43.2	53.9	67.6	73.1	69.5	58.9	48.0	40.8	22.3	47.3
1877	24.2	33.6	35.1	44.3	54.9	66.5	69.9	70.7	63.9	51.3	43.8	36.1	49.5
1878	28.3	31.0	39.5	47.2	55.3	64.2	72.7	68.1	62.9	55.3	39.9	29.6	49.5
1879	24.5	24.5	33.8	42.4	59.4	64.2	69.9	67.7	60.8	56.6	39.2	32.6	48.0
1880	35.0	32.2	33.1	45.9	62.7	67.7	71.1	68.9	64.1	50.8	37.5	26.2	49.6

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *April* 12, 1881.



HOODOOS OR REMNANTS OF EROSION IN THE GOBLIN LABYRINTHS.

YELLOW STONE NATIONAL PARK.